REMARKS

Claim 18 is amended herein. Claims 20 and 22-24 are canceled. New claim 45 is presented. Support for the Amendment is found, for example, at page 5, lines 3-10 and Table 1 on page 13 of the specification. No new matter is presented.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Again, Applicant notes that the Examiner did not initial the following references on the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), but there is no indication as to why these references were not considered and initialed:

1. Supplisson S, Bergman C (1997): Control of NMDA receptor activation by a glycine transporter co-expressed in Xenopus oocytes. J Neurosci 17:4580-90;

2. Tanii Y, Nishikawa T, Hashimoto A, Takahashi K (1991): Stereoselective inhibition by D- and L-alanine of phencyclidine-induced locomotor stimulation in the rat. Brain Res 563:281-284; and

3. Tanii Y, Hishikawa T, Hashimoto A, Takahashi K (1994): Stereoselective antagonism by enantiomers of alanine and serine of phencyclidine-induced hyperactivity, stereotypy and ataxia. J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 269:1040-1048.

Again, Applicant respectfully requests a copy of the PTO/SB/08 Form listing these references, initialed by the Examiner or an indication as to why these references were not considered and initialed.

II. Priority

The Examiner is requesting Applicant to point out support for the presently claimed "new" subject matter in the parent application.

Applicants respectfully submit that support for the presently claimed subject matter is provided in the present application.

III. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the scope of enablement requirement. The Examiner states that, while enabling for D-serine transport inhibitors such as D-serine dodecylamide, glycyldodecylamide and D-alanine dodecylamide, the present specification does not reasonably provide enablement for any D-serine transport inhibitor in general in the composition for treating schizophrenia.

Claim 18 is amended herein to further define the claimed D-serine transport inhibitors of the invention, thereby obviating the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

IV. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention with respect to the term "substituted phenyl group".

Claim 24 is canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

V. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Takuma et al (JP 08-025986)

Claims 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Takuma et al (JP 08-025986).

Claims 20 and 22-24 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Takuma et al does not disclose the presently claimed selective D-serine transport inhibitor compounds as recited in amended claim 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Tsai et al

Claims 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tsai, et al (WO 99/52519).

Claims 20 and 22-24 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Tsai et al does not disclose the presently claimed selective D-serine transport inhibitor compounds as recited in amended claim 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

C. Javitt

Claims 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Javitt (WO 97/20553).

Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art does not disclose the presently claimed selective D-serine transport inhibitor compounds as recited in amended claim 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

VI. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Javitt as applied to claims 18 and 21, and further in view of Tsai et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that the references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in the present claims. First, claim 19 depends from claim 18, which is not included in the rejection and therefore claim 19 is distinguished over the references for at least the same reasons as claim 18. Further, neither one of Javitt or Tsai et al teach a selective D-serine inhibitor, much less the specifically claimed D-alanine dodecylamide. Therefore, the references do not teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention and even if combined, the claimed invention would not have been achieved.

Even further, D-alanine-dodecylamide provided unexpectedly superior results in that it showed a different pattern of activity in the inventive assay than GDA or D-serine-dodecylamide and inhibited amphetamine-induced hyperactivity whereas GDA did not. Thus, D-alanine-dodecylamide would be expected to have superior efficacy relative to other compounds, which would not have been expected based upon the disclosures of Tsai and Javitt.

In view of the above, the presently claimed invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

VII. New Claim

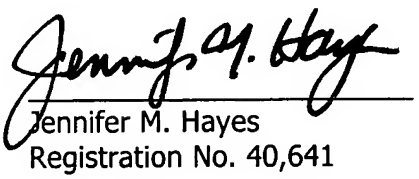
New claim 45 depends from claim 18 and is distinguished over the art for at least the same reasons. New claim 45 is additionally distinguished over the art in that it recites that the D-serine transport inhibitor has 5-fold selectivity, which is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer M. Hayes
Registration No. 40,641

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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